



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Rhode Island Independence Day

WHEREAS, Rhode Island led the thirteen original colonies into open rebellion against the tyranny of King George III and the Parliament of England with the destruction of the British revenue sloop, Liberty, at Newport on July 19, 1769, with the burning of the revenue schooner, HMS Gaspee, near Providence on June 10, 1772, and with the repeal of the Act of Allegiance to the King of England on May 4, 1776; and

WHEREAS, the repeal of the Act of Allegiance to the King of England was two months prior to the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia and established Rhode Island as the first true republic in the new world; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Declaration of Independence terminated a long series of disagreements between Rhode Islanders and the British Empire; and

WHEREAS, these disagreements were between the British Empire and the people who lived in the colony established by the free-thinking Roger Williams in 1636 on the premise that a most flourishing state may stand and best be maintained with full liberty in civil and religious concernment; and

WHEREAS, for two hundred and thirty six years Rhode Island has been known as the birthplace of the Independent Man; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2012 as Rhode Island Independence Day and call upon all Rhode Islanders to join in the celebration of the principles of freedom and the independent way of life that is our heritage.



Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations,
this 4th day of May, 2012

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State